

SAC JUNE MINUTES | July 28, 2020

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Meeting Open: 4:30 PM

Notes taken by Chris Maccini

Board Members Present:

Andrew Whitver, Chris Maccini, Chuck Horgan, E.J. Iannelli, Eva Silverstone, Emma Noyes, Ginger Ewing, Derrick Oliver, Madison Bush, Remelisa Cullitan, Chase Ogden, Garret Daggett, Patty Tully, Katie Patterson Larson

Staff Members Present: Melissa Huggins, Mika Maloney

Absent: Daniel Lopez, Miguel Gonzales

Opening

- E.J. opened the meeting and called to order.
- Reviewed June minutes. Eva moved to approve. Andrew Whitver seconded. No Discussion. June minutes unanimously approved.

Governance:

- None

Programming:

- Mural Updates (Mika)
 - Jiemei Lin's mural downtown is complete
 - HoopTown murals are going fast - Peaceful Valley is complete. Chief Garry Park is in progress, hopefully complete this week.
 - Mural maintenance staff person is out touching up and removing graffiti
 - Question from Eva - Is there a channel to report graffiti or maintenance need? You can email Mika, but most people just contact the City and they pass it along to Spokane Arts. Though it's better if it goes directly to Spokane Arts. So that's what we should tell people.
 - Black Lives Matter mural (led by Terrain) looks great! Good work to commissioners who helped with that project, including Ginger, Daniel, Emma and Remelisa. Kudos!
- Chase Gallery (Mika)
 - Threshold group exhibit runs through Sept. 28th. Installed physically in City Hall. There are online exhibit questions and art activities for all ages.
 - October will change over to the PrintFest "Wooden storyteller" exhibit
 - Call for 2021 will be open August 1st through mid-Sept. - Probably will have 4 show slots to fill. Solo artists or groups can apply.
- Music Video Jams (Melissa)
 - Filmmakers have been selected - 7 filmmakers, including some very emerging folks.
 - Musicians are *almost* done being selected. We have a really interesting and eclectic mix of musicians.
 - As of now, we are crossing fingers for production in August. Live Stream event would be Sept. 13th - All pending additional COVID restrictions.
- John Monaghan Statue (Melissa)
 - Background: Statue was commissioned in 1906 by a family who donated it to city. Honoring Monaghan's military service, and a plaque that is explicitly racist. City has apparently received complaints over the years, but renewed calls now to remove or move that statue.

- One past idea floated, maybe by DSP or city planner, was to move the statue to Veterans' Arena with other veterans' statues.
- Pacific Islander community has advocated for the statue's removal.
- What are possible options/ideas that wider community has articulated? 1) Statue taken down. 2) Replace the plaque but leave the statue (Monaghan family has asked for this). 3) Move the statue to Veterans' Arena w/different plaque.
- Historically the City has not asked us to maintain existing statues and monuments, esp. those installed before the arts commission was formed (1974.)
- Discussion - How should Spokane Arts move forward with this situation, understanding there are many other stakeholders with different perspectives?
 - Emma – Funding? Stakeholder group should involve GSI and/or nearby businesses (Spokane Club, Catholic Diocese, Family Impact Network, etc.)
 - Katie - Any discussion of what would replace the statue? Melissa – Spokesman article said there has been some discussion to replace it with a statue honoring local Native American tribes. But that's probably a separate discussion from removal of the current statue because funding for a new statue would need to be identified.
 - Has City Council chimed in? - Eva reached out to Kate Burke, who said she's been trying to get traction on this since 2018, but has not had any success. Melissa says Karen Stratton is working on the renaming of Fort George Wright Drive, in partnership with Spokane Tribe.
 - Eva - Maybe we should try to bring together a group of stakeholders - local businesses, Parks Dept., Pacific Islander community.
 - Ginger - We should not advocate for just moving the statue. Would replacing the plaque be an intermediary step?
 - Chris - Include the MAC in stakeholder conversation? Option to place the statue in historical context rather than a place of honor?
 - Melissa - Samoan community should have the opportunity to articulate to city their answer on whether replacing the plaque is enough.
 - Patty - Can the city give the statue directly back to the family? Can we crowd-fund for a replacement statue?
 - Ginger - It's important for us to listen to the Samoan community and advocate for whatever solution they would prefer.
 - Andrew - It's important to also use this as an educational opportunity. Rather than simply removing evidence of our racist history, also use it as a chance to inform and educate.
 - Ginger - Even if it's in a museum, city/cultural community would still be spending money to maintain a racist artifact.
- Next Steps - Reach out to Samoan/Pacific Islander community. Draft a letter for the Commission to send to the mayor and City Council requesting they convene a group of stakeholders & take action on this matter. We could suggest who should be involved & send an arts commission representative or two.
- SAGA Update (Melissa)
 - Will email list of Round 2 grantees. Press release going out Friday.
- Public Art Updates (Melissa)
 - Please share the calls for SportsPlex public art. Not too many submissions yet.
- Cultural Trail Update
 - Some progress. Melissa met with City Council. Nice piece from Shawn Vestal in Spokesman. More to come.

Advocacy:

- City Survey for CARES funding allocation has closed.

- Shortened RFP for organizations to apply for that CARES funding. Spokane Arts is submitting a proposal for arts funding to include:
 - Individual artist grants
 - Relief for performing arts venues
 - Small-scale neighborhood projects
- No special session of state legislature, which means no state relief funding any time soon.

Updates from Commissioners

- Design Review Board (Chuck)
 - NW Middle School and Joe Albi Stadium. Middle school will have opportunities for artwork. Not sure about the stadium. They may just move existing art.
- Arts WA (Ginger)
 - None
- Arts Awards (Mika)
 - Committee had its first meeting
 - Please nominate artists and share nominations.
 - Still sorting out performers, etc.
- Flag Committee
 - Moving forward. Hope to have the call out in August.
- Mural Committee
 - Artist chosen for downtown basketball court mural. Joshua Martel will be installing that court next summer.

New business/ Good of the Commission

- Melissa will email the group about GSI non-profit grant via Innovia \$2500 - \$10,000 grants in federal money. Please spread the word and encourage people to apply. This may be one of the last opportunities for arts orgs and non-profits to apply for relief funding.
- Riverfront Park sculpture update - Artist is pretty dismayed that there is public opposition to the piece. Trying to figure out how much we can pay her for the work she's done thus far.
- Spokane is Reading - Diverse Voices, multiple books on the list. - No live event, but possibly some virtual events.

Closing

- Motion to close, 5:58 p.m. Unanimous approval without discussion.
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 25th, 4:30pm**